



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## *Department of Medical Assistance Services*

July 14, 2010

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David Blumenthal MD, MPP  
National Coordinator for Health Information Technology  
Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Dr. Blumenthal,

The Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) as the single state agency responsible for Medicaid is committed to addressing the advancement of appropriate and secure health information exchange (HIE) across the health care system in the Commonwealth of Virginia and fully supports the goal of continuous improvement and expansion of HIE services over time to reach all health care providers in an effort to improve the quality and efficiency of health care for our population.

DMAS has fully engaged with, and supports, the Virginia Department of Health, Office of Health IT in collaboration with other public and private entities in their draft of the strategic and operational plans for a Health Information Exchange in Virginia.

As the appropriate and secure electronic exchange and consequent use of health information to improve quality and coordination of care is a critical enabler of a high performance health care system, these plans will allow the Commonwealth to leverage existing HIE efforts to meet local health care provider, community, state, public health and nationwide information needs.

DMAS will continue to support this project by participating in governance and stakeholder meetings throughout the four-year funding period. DMAS will administer provider incentives consistent with a CMS approved State Medicaid HIT Plan (SMHP). DMAS will continue to coordinate with appropriate partners to ensure efficient and effective use of Federal funding.

Again, DMAS has complete confidence in the Virginia Department of Health, Office of Health IT, with a wide variety of public and private partners to implement the Virginia Health Information Exchange as documented in the strategic and operational plans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Cindi Jones", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Cindi Jones

Acting Director